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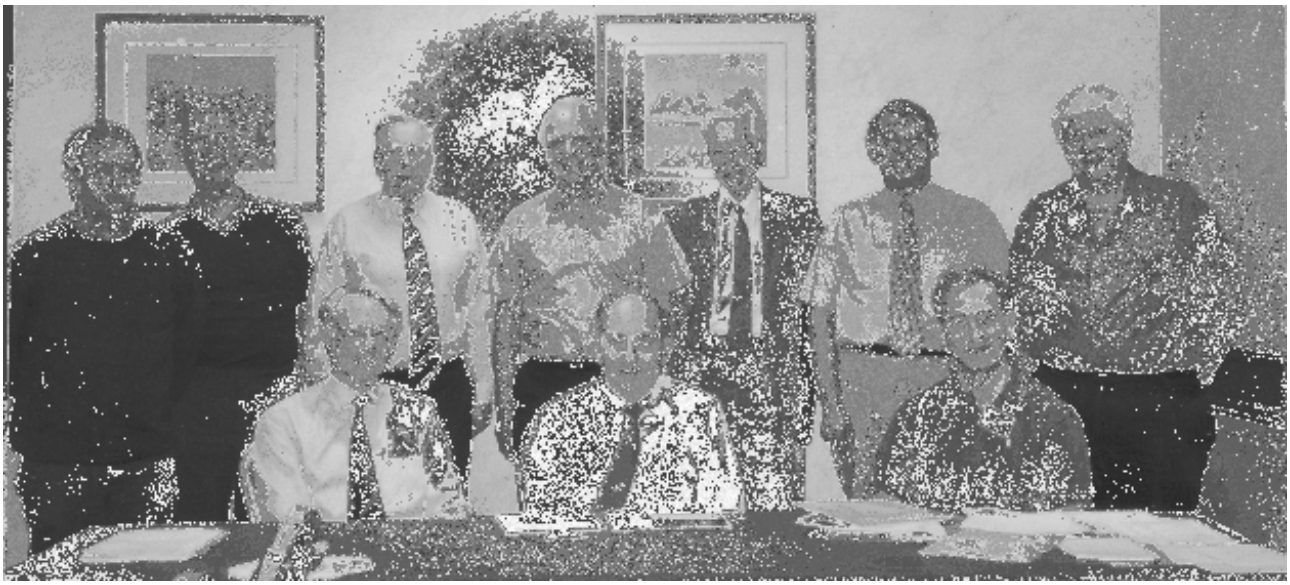

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BULLETIN No. 194 SEPTEMBER 2002

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

Affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies

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OBJECTS

1 TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.

2 TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.

3 TO loan books from the Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear postage both ways. Lists supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an S.A.E. (9" x 6½") – 2nd Class postage for 150 gm rate required.

4 TO publicise 'wants' and furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.

5 TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aim in para 1 above.

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MEMBERSHIP - is WORLD WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be new or advanced collectors.

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PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

WIPEX

Being held at the County Hotel, Upper Woburn Place, London WC1 - FREE OF CHARGE

Saturday 5th October 2002, open at 9.45am and close at 4.45pm

- Specialist BWI dealers
- Members approval & publication tables
- Expert Committee Session
- Formal displays: **Charles Freeland** who will be showing Crown Circles of the West Indies plus a surprise exhibit of stamps. **Mr. B Ivanovic** will show Mail to the West Indies up to c.1860. **Graham Childs** of Harmers to show the Harmers forgery collection.

84th PHILATELIC CONGRESS of GREAT BRITAIN 2002

Being held at DAWLISH , Devon, from Thursday 12th to Sunday 15th September.

Further Details at our web site www.bwisc.org under Programme.

NEW! NEW!

INDEX TO BULLETINS 1 – 191

A complete index to all Bulletins up to and including the December 2001 issue

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EDITORS COMMENTS

Bulletin Style & Content

Publishing my first bulletin in June was a daunting task for me!

Not only was I seeking to continue the high standards set by my two predecessors (Dennis Charlesworth & Peter Ford) but we were also changing our printers. I would like to record my thanks to Michael Oliver for co-ordinating these matters and undertaking the distribution, which to my great relief went smoothly.

I do not intend making radical innovations, as I feel comfortable with the A4 style developed by Peter. However, I would like to develop two aspects:

- I would like to include more information concerning the personalities involved in our hobby – too often we only find out about people when their collection comes up for auction or even worse when we read their obituary. I particularly enjoy reading about people in publications from the 1950s, 60s and 70s – a now famous name taking tentative steps to learn their chosen specialism. This issue includes some photographs of contributors of articles, hopefully you will now recognise them at meetings and exhibitions – please approach them and talk to them. Let me know what you or friends are doing – displays to local societies; competition entries BEFORE they happen so we have the chance to attend; even outside interests.
- More use of electronic media. I will try to complement the printed bulletin with information on our web site (www.bwisc.org). The bulletin cross-reference index produced by Peter Fernbank is available and Peter & I will be progressively including old articles (Bulletins 1 to 9 are already there plus some other bits and pieces). They are also being made available in Adobe pdf format for download. We want to create a showcase of articles, so could the Study Group Leaders supply appropriate material for their territories, for me to include on the site.
- New bulletins are also produced in pdf format, a sub-committee has been set up to examine possible distribution of the bulletin via the web. The June and September bulletins are on-line but require a password to access them. However, the file sizes are quite large (4 to 5 mb) and download times may be too long. The Committee can then discuss the idea with some concrete facts concerning demand and practicality. Could members who would be interested in this service in exchange for a reduced dues rate, e-mail me (info@bwisc.org) to experiment with the delivery mechanism.

Publication Timetable

In order to publish and despatch bulletins as early in the designated month as possible the following typical timetable needs to be achieved -

December Issue - Draft available for proof reading: 31st October

Therefore articles need to be submitted at least 2 weeks ahead of this date to stand any chance of inclusion. Articles will be incorporated on a first come – first served basis providing that the bulletin retains a balance for interest of all members.

'NEVIS' by FEDERICO BORROMEO

This is the second in the `Classic Collections' series published by the British West Indies Study Circle.
Nevis is a difficult country to collect,
with most of the little available material permanently locked away in institutional collections.
the collection illustrated in this booklet is almost certainly the finest in private hands and is still being actively developed.

The booklet contains 40 pages and is profusely illustrated in colour.
Price: UK - £ 13.00; Europe & Overseas - £ 15.00; US - $24.00. BWISC Members' Discount - £2.00 (US$3.00)

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THE PROBLEM WITH CHALK

BY ERIC M BATESON

I collect covers, preferably philatelic, of the Empire Period of the British West Indies and, within my means, am trying to obtain all the different variations of each issue including ordinary and chalk surfaced paper. The Stanley Gibbons Empire catalogue states, "Our chalk surfaced paper is specifically one which shows a black mark when touched with a silver wire".

I live in a relatively remote part of Queensland and the only way I can collect this type of cover is through auction sales and dealers usually in the UK but sometimes in the USA. Some of the covers I have purchased were as bearing chalk surfaced stamps but on receipt the stamps failed to react when touched but also when firmly stroked with a piece of silver wire which I obtained from a jewellers some years ago. Recently, an English Queen Victoria silver florin came into my possession which produced a mark in some but not all of the supposedly chalk surfaced stamps which had failed to respond to the silver wire. I wish to illustrate this problem with four covers in my collection all from Antigua and all pristine.

Figure 1.
A Kinze cover, postmarked 15/10/07, bearing the EDVII 5s which was listed in a sale as SG 40 (ordinary paper) and therefore as expected failed to respond to the silver wire or florin.

Figure 2.
Another Kinze cover which was sold as SG 40a (chalk surfaced paper), postmarked 1908. The stamp failed to react to the silver wire or coin.

Figure 3.
A third Kinze cover, bearing the 1s badge issue which was described in the sale as SG 37a (chalk paper), postmarked 27/09/07, which easily responded to both the silver wire and coin.

Figure 4.
A Kiderlen cover, bearing the KGV 5s (SG 51) listed in the SG catalogue as chalk paper but unexpectedly also failed the silver test with both wire and coin

There are many other covers in my collection which were purchased on the understanding the stamps were chalk surfaced paper many of which failed the silver test.

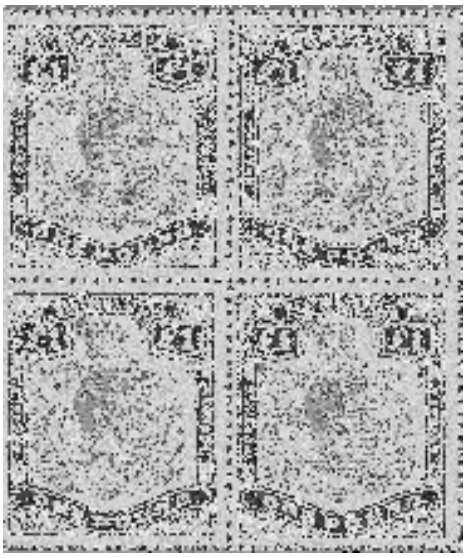
With my relative inexperience, I have to assume is it is my technique which is faulty, but it would be interesting to know if other members have had a similar problem. Comments, possibly in the form of correspondence in the Bulletin may be of interest to other readers.

1793

Bonhams

Auctioneers and Valuers

Stamps of the British West Indies at Bonhams



The auction includes an important selection of Bermuda King George VI keyplates, illustrated is the £1 violet and black on Scarlet, showing major frame flaw “white island” in a Positional block of 4.

Bonhams holds monthly stamp auctions containing stamps and postal history of interest to collectors of British West Indies.

For a complimentary catalogue or advice on buying or selling at Bonhams please contact Stuart Billington on 020 7468 8373
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ANTIGUA - A COLLECTION OF LETTERS

The R & H Jefferson Correspondence by Thomas A. Anderson

With the help of a number of others, I have begun to catalogue some estate correspondence written from Antigua to Whitehaven between 1844 and 1861. The Antigua estates belonged to a Whitehaven firm, R & H Jefferson, who owned a fleet of ships and were wine and spirits merchants. Their representative in Antigua was Gedney C. Bispham. I needed more than just a collection of letters to write an article; I needed to know more about Bispham and the Jeffersons. I was surprised at how fast this information came when I began to pursue it. The first surprise came from a houseguest who, as it turns out, is an avid Caribbean genealogist. He knew of the Bispham Family, and shortly after he got back to his home in Ottawa emailed me Mr. Bispham's family tree. I also began to follow some of the references from other collectors. This led to the Cumbria Records Office in Whitehaven, which has been a great resource for the Jeffersons. They started by introducing me to an author of a book on the fleets that had sailed from Cumbria in the 19th century, including R & H Jefferson. I was able to increase my collection through purchases and through photocopies. I found that the dealers were very cooperative in sharing copies of their material for my project.[1] Finally, I discovered that all of the letters that I had been collecting had been part of a business archive sold by Phillips Auctions in 1994.[2]

I currently have catalogued 61 pieces of correspondences, spanning a period from 1844 to 1861, which I have transcribed and catalogued. My first job was to transcribe all of the correspondence. I might add that this was a challenge since the writer of the majority of the surviving correspondence had ever worse handwriting than my own. This work went very slowly until I began using my scanner. It is much easier to put a full colour image up on a 17" screen and zoom in or out as necessary, than to work with hand held magnifier.

---

[1] Pennymead Auctions, Michael Hamilton, Argyll – Etkin, and Sergio Sismondo either sent me copies (or originals which I copied) for this project.

[2] Phillips Auction: Books, Autographs, Manuscripts & Maps
Thursday 17 March 1994 at 1 pm
Sale No. 29,504 pp61-4
Lot 326 entitled

Wine Trade and Antigua. fine and extensive business archive of the Whitehaven Wine Merchants, R. & H. Jefferson, relating to both their wine business and to their estates in Antigua, comprising

(i.) Bin and Stock Books: ….
(ii.) Collection of deeds
(iii.) Substantial correspondence of c. 250 letters from G. C. Bispham, the Jeffersons' agent in Antigua, to the Jeffersons in Whitehaven, providing details of rum prices and production and related matters, such as the sugar crop, shipping, molasses prices etc., *c. 500 pages, mostly 4to, address panels with numerous Antigua postmarks, some with postage stamps, c. 1844-58*
(iv.) Other correspondence, including letters from Jerez, Cadiz, New York and Antigua (the latter with a run of 'Crown Paid at Antigua' mark): and much other unclassifiable material
(v.) several thousand pages, the archive with some heavy dust-staining (as is usual with such collections), affecting mostly the outer covers of the ledgers etc., but overall in good condition, the great bulk of the correspondence kept wrapped in packets (address panels on the inside) and unaffected

Above is the auction listing for the business archives of Jeffersons of Whitehaven. Until the auction all of the material discussed in this article had been stored in the Jefferson offices in Whitehaven. The auction listing gives some parameters to the size of the correspondence: (iii) 250 letters between 1844-58, and (iv) an additional set from a later date (the Crown circles were from the 1860 period).

As with many estate letters, there were plenty of sentences that would lead most readers to forget the letters and look for a good novel to read. For example,

> I now enclose ours for the last month by which you will perceive the death of the manager's horse; this animal appears to have been very subject to inflammation of the bowels, which it had hither to got over, but which on this last occasion proved fatal. (GB21)[3]

By examining many letters over a period of time, we can begin to fill out a picture of some of the life, culture, and business of the period. This correspondence gives detail to the problems involved in succeeding in the sugar business at period when the world markets were in upheaval. The British Government did an interesting thing in the decade just after the end of slavery in the British West Indies. As the demand at home for sugar grew, the British Government began to support laws that would allow the free market to operate to the benefit of British consumers. The result for the sugar industry in the British colonies was the elimination of protective tariffs. Sugar prices fell by half in England between 1840 and 1848 as planters in the British colonies had to compete with slave-produced sugar from Cuba and Brazil. Sugar production from the British West Indies was increasing over this period, as planters had to produce more than twice the sugar to earn the same profit. Ironically, these bumper crop years only served to further depress the sugar prices[4]. The planters that survived this period had to be more than “Gentleman Farmers”; they needed to be shrewd businessmen. Robert Jefferson appears to be interested in keeping up with factors that may influence his various operations. On a trip to Antigua in 1861, he asked Henry to: 1) send out another ship; 2) cancel the lease on pasturage at Pearns Point; and 3)”Send me the “Economist” out as you read it. (RJ01) The Jeffersons’ wine and spirits business probably gave them a more international perspective; their correspondence mentions business trips to Brussels and Madeira. Aside from producing and marketing sugar products and wine, the Jeffersons are equally at home discussing their shipping ventures, marine fittings, and machinery.

I am in the process of doing an analysis of the information in the letters that relates to:

Sugar planting and production (the making of sugar from cane appears to have been a very inefficient process – some new technology was tried)

> I have seen some beautiful sugar from the Centrifugal Wheel made at Betty's Hope: they have now applied their steam engine to it and it alone: they depend entirely on the Wind Mill for grinding, which is certainly most effective. I am still most favourably inclined to the Wheel, but I would not advise one being sent out until we see how the present crop winds up: one thing, the syrup from it should all be boiled over as soon as possible before fermentation takes place or there will be an considerable reduction in quantity: the wheel should also be driven by an independent power and that a Steam Engine: 4 effective Mules were found not sufficient at Betty's Hope to work it, and I am certain our Engine would not effectively work it, and grind a sufficient quantity of canes at the same time. (JL01)

Rum and molasses production (rum and molasses are by-products made from the liquid and scrapings after the cane syrup was boiled)

> The Still has been landed in good order; in a few days more I hope to have it in operation and will do all in my power to make it profitable. I have had it set to be used with coal as the stock of Megass is not more than we shall require for sugar making, and as I am very apprehensive that we shall have a wet crop season to contend with, I deem it necessary to take every precaution against a want of fuel for the coppers. Should our stock of fuel warrant it, next year, the grating bars can be altered to burn megass. (GB20)

[3] Numbers in parentheses after quotations refer to the correspondence catalog numbers found in the CATALOG OF ANTIGUA SUGAR ESTATE LETTERS BY WRITER

[4] William A. Green, British Slave Emancipation: The Sugar Colonies and Great Experiment 1830 – 1865, Clarendon Press, 1991. p. 244.

Health matters (Yeamans Estate appears to have been a particularly unhealthy part of Antigua for both man and beast)

> Two overseers, Crook and Williams, having died within that time and the Manager being ill and unable to attend to the duties of the Estate. Mr. Burrows gave up the situation soon after he went on the Estate. Mr. Lake being a man who could be depended upon was sent to me from Cocoanut Hall to superintend the work during Mr. Frew's first illness and returned after Mr. Frew's health improved. (GB22)

Labour matters (with freedom comes the problem of labour management and labour supply)

> When the weather permits us to go forward, the labourers are not to be had, which makes sugar making tedious and disgusting in the extreme. A large importation of Portuguese at this particular time would be of infinite service to the country generally; one hundred and sixteen arrived here a few days ago (GB26)

Weather (planting canes requires soaking rains which are detrimental if they occur during harvest)

> The weather continues to baffle our efforts to take off the crop expeditiously, and on the night of the 2nd we had very heavy rains, accompanied by severe lightning. I was in hopes, after it, we should have had a good breeze to turn the mills, but I have been disappointed. ... The heavy rains have caused some little wash from the lands of Yeamans, and made the grass grow to my great annoyance; at this season when all the hands we can master are employed on sugar making, any extra work increases the demand for labour, and unsettles the minds of the people, who are ever on the watch to increase their wages. On Yeamans we were for a time in want of hands for grinding, but we have latterly(sic) had a better supply, and will ere long have the fields in order. (GB33)

BRITISH WEST INDIES

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Shipping (the Jeffersons were merchant seaman with a fleet sailing the Atlantic in search of wine and rum, sugar and molasses)

> I am glad to find that the "Derwent" has arrived safely and was to sail again on the 2nd.June. I hope they may have a good run out…. The "British Queen" arrived here yesterday morning all safe, and arrangements are being made to land the Boiler on Monday, ...to this day Mr. Cassim has not paid his freight bill by the "Bangor" £20.2.6-.... The molasses via the "Derwent" appears to have done very fairly from all I could learn the "Orantes" is likely to do better in Barbados than she could here, her size being in her favor. Capt. Ellison called here in the "Anne James" seeking but will proceed to St. Thomas. Freights here to London are now at 2/3 per cwt. put alongside. (GB48)

People and places (some of the dramatis personnae from the Codrington Correspondence show up in the Bispham – Jefferson Correspondence)

> I landed at English Harbor yesterday week 7th March after a stormy passage of 17 days from Southampton. I came on in the Thames from St. Thomas – Nugent's gig was waiting for me & I drove to Betty's Hope from there all well. The Island is in a complete hubbub & sugar making & business of allsorts at a standstill by the visit of Prince Alfred -- he was to have landed yesterday but did not arrive until 5 o'clock & all functionaries including Nugent with his troop of cavalry after having danced attendance as the Point for some hours in the broiling sun were informed his Highness would not land until 3 o'clock today (RJ01)

In the meantime, I would like to present my catalogue. I feel that there must be hundreds more pieces of this correspondence still in existence. Writing a report at least once a month for 20 years would be 240 pieces from Bispham at a minimum. Although, it appears that the bulk of what has survived came from the Jeffersons in Whitehaven and consisted more of Bispham's writing than letters to Bispham. There are still in existence letters that were written to Bispham in Antigua from England.

To Be Continued in Next Bulletin

MURRAY

Recently Updated

New Lists Available from Murray Payne Ltd

We have recently purchased several private collections and have put together the following lists of sets, varieties and blocks. Although know for our KGVI these lists include some earlier material as well as QE2.
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Front and back of GB40. Addressed by Bispham to Messrs. R&H Jefferson, Whitehaven, marked "Private" and "per Steamer". The front of the letter contains a reference note by someone at the Jeffersons' firm: "G. C. Bispham / Correspondence as to Mr. L. / Decr & Janry / 1856 1857". The letter is rated six pence and the Antigua, London and Whitehaven cds' all appear on the backside. The letter took 20 days to complete its journey.

BAHAMAS

3D WAR TAX SG98 – STAMPS IN SHEETS OF 59 BY S. GRAHAM HOEY

In reply to John Davis' enquiry in the March Bulletin I was once, almost fifty years ago, offered a corner block of this stamp with No. 12 missing. I remember being extremely annoyed at the "vandal" who had ruined a good positional block of four, presumably to get a copy of the "Extra Half Tree-Trunk" variety. In those days I was a very new, and green, collector of Bahamas and, of course, this was long before we had access to the De La Rue Records or Crown Agents Archives.

The significance of the missing stamp and, more importantly, of the misplaced sheet number escaped me at the time and, needless to say, I have never seen another. I failed to take a note of the sheet number of what was, to me, a spoiled block and it remains one of the Bahamas rarities which slipped through my fingers due to my ignorance.

The whole episode is a very good example of the meticulous checking carried out by the Crown Agents inspector at every stage of the process in those days.

BARBADOS

USED SPECIMEN BY ROBERT ELLIS

Illustrated is a remarkable 'SPECIMEN' which I recently acquired at auction. I have never seen anything comparable and would be most grateful if anyone can help identify it.

It has no gum and it seems that it has been stamped by a receiving authority. The hand-stamp is not of West Indies origin and one informed guess is that it may be from one of the Australian States, which was sent the stamp as an example of the type of 'SPECIMEN' overprint.

Any help would be much appreciated.

Ed. Note: Don Napier has kindly shown this item around the top experts down-under who have concluded that it is not of Australian origin.

peter singer

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BARBADOS

Britannia stamps bisected (1854 – 1880) By Peter Longmuir

Introduction.

This is the first of two articles reviewing those Barbados stamps with the Britannia portrait that were bisected and first used for postal purposes in 1854 and subsequently up to 1880. Those listed below in the left hand column are believed known used on covers (as well as on pieces and as used singles) and have Stanley Gibbons catalogue status (except for SG 66), those in the right hand column are unknown on covers and therefore exist solely as used singles or on pieces, without catalogue status.

S G 4b 1854 2d Grey-slate.
S G 19a 1861 1d Blue
S G 24a 1861-70 1d Blue
S G 52a 1872 1d Blue
S G 66 1874 1 d Deep blue
S G 73a 1877 1d Dull blue
S G 83a 1880 1/- Dull mauve [1]
S G 86-88 1878 1d on half 5/- Dull rose

S G 5 1855 4d Brown–red [2]
S G 10 1857 1d Deep blue [2]
S G 14 1860 1d Pale blue [3]
S G 15 1860 1d Deep blue [4]

[1] Used as 6d on Cover, only 1 copy known, in Royal Collection

[2] Only 1 copy known, in Royal Collection
[3] Only 1 copy known
[4] Only 2 copies known

It is intended in this first article to review the Imperforate stamps, and to cover the Perforated bisects (with the exception of the 1d on half 5/-) in a subsequent article.

The bisected IMPERFORATE stamps

It can be seen from the above that out of all the bisected imperfs only one copy each of SG 5 and 10 are believed to exist (both in the Royal Collection, with the former of uncertain status). It therefore remains to consider only SG 4b, the 2d Grey-slate, which when on cover remains one of the most keenly sought after items of Barbados philately.

It is generally accepted that the authorised usage of the 2d, bisected as a 1d for postal purposes, occurred between 4 August and 21 September 1854 as a consequence of a shortage of the 1d Blue stamps, and prior to the delayed receipt of their further supply from Perkins Bacon some time after the 12 August invoice date. Note, however, that the list below contains a later example dated 6 October 1854.

I have so far identified a total of 55 examples of the bisect. 27 of these are on entires, with 23 known dated covers, 1 cover with the exact date unknown to me, as yet, and 3 dated on large part entires. The other 28 consist of 7 dated and 21 undated pieces. These are listed in two sections overleaf.

It would be appreciated if any reader could provide any missing information from these, particularly a date for item 24, the gaps in 5, 17, 26, and 27, and also add any other covers known to exist but not shown. In particular, my research may have omitted information obtainable across the Atlantic.

According to my records, the highest price paid remains the £9000 paid in 1990 for item 21, ex Bayley, at Harmers, this wonderful cover being enhanced, of course, with the addition of the ½d green vertical pair. See Fig 1. After this, the Puerto Rico cover (item 8) sold for £5500 at Christies in 1995. See Fig 2.

1854 2d GREY -SLATE SG 4b

Dated Covers

	Date	Description	Left/Right Bisect	Destination	Addressee	Certificate	Auction Ref
	AUG						
1	4	Found 18/3/95	L	Trinidad	Wood/Campbell		C Henry 12/61
2	4	Found 6/1/95	L	Trinidad	W/C	RPS 1956	Hackmey 4/86
3	4	Found 15/8195	L	Trinidad	W/C		C Henry 4/61
4	5	Prices Current	L	St Vincent	Hazell	RPS 1988	Lickfold 2/62
5	10	Prices Current	R	Bermuda			Hurlock 6/58
6	11		L	Newfoundland	Boyd	PHIL 1965	Christies 6/94
7	11	Paid at Bdos CC	R	Baltimore	Barreda		Christies 10/89
8	11	Paid at Bdos CC	R	Puerto Rico	Latimer	RPS 1960	Christies 5/95
9	11		R	St Vincent	Hazell	RPS 1935	R Lowe 10/64
10	21		L	Grenada	Steele	RPS 1961	Wheeler 5/70
11	21		R	B Guiana	Verbeke	RPS 1971	R Lowe 10/67
12	21	Royal Collection	L	Trinidad	W/C		
13	23	Local Cover	L	St Thomas	Miss Walton	Diena 1953	R Lowe 4/52
14	26	Paid at Bdos CC	L	Puerto Rico	Latimer	RPS 1962	C Henry12/61
15	27	Paid at Bdos CC	R	Baltimore	Barreda		Siegel 4/84
16	27	Paid at Bdos CC	R	Antigua	Shibon	RPS 1947	Lickfold 2/62
	SEPT						
17	5		L	Grenada		BPA	Harmers 1/74
18	5	Triangular	R	B Guiana	Verbeke	BPA 1962	C Henry 4/61
19	5	Prices Current	L	Trinidad	Campbell		Harmers 11/62
20	5	Prices Current	L	Trinidad	Fitt	Diena 1953	R Lowe 5/47
21	11	With 1/2d Pair	L	Newfoundland	Boyd	RPS 1961	Bayley 10/90
22	11		R	Bermuda	Tatem		C Henry 12/61
23	20/21		R	St Vincent	Hazell		Harm NY 9/90

Undated Cover

24		1854 Mourning	R	Nevis	Hankey		Harmers 6/80

Dated Large Part Entires

	SEPT						
25	4	Royal Collection 10 Cancel	L	Bridgetown	Brown & Baylis		
26	5		R	B Guiana		RPS 1950	Harmers 4/85
	OCT						
27	6	Prices Current	R			RPS 1936	Phillips 9/89

Fig 1 Item 21

2d Greyish slate bisected as 1d together with vertical pair of ½d deep green on 1854 EL addressed to Newfoundland, tied by fine numeral '1' cancellations, endorsed 'via Bermuda' and with m/s '8', on reverse Barbados dispatch St. Thomas transit and Newfoundland arrival EL with vertical filing fold and a trifle soiled but a great rarity, the only known use of this bisect with mixed franking Cat £6500 'Royal' cert. Ex Charlton-Henry, Amundsen and Cartier. See Bayley book – colour plate II (photo) (2, 4ab).

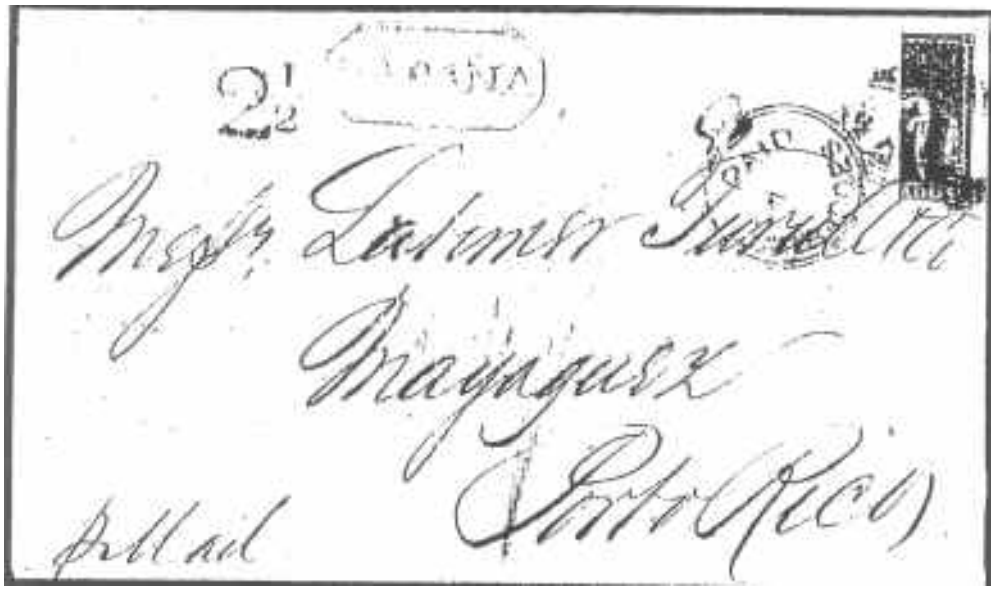

Fig 2 Item 8

1854 (11 Aug.) entire letter to Porto Rico, bearing 1852-55 (2d.) greyish slate bisected vertically, tied by "I" obliterator and showing fine Crowned circle "PAID / AT / BARBADOES" in red alongside as well as blue framed "HABANA" and "2½" with, on reverse, despatch and St. Thomas transit d.s.; the entire with horizontal filing crease and a little discoloured in the lower half, nevertheless a remarkable and very attractive franking. R.P.S. Certificate (1960)

The most recent sale of a dated cover was, I believe, at Northlands, New Jersey, in May this year, item 6, which realised £3000. Valid price comparisons are not easy, some covers have further merit through the addition of the Crowned Circle handstamp, others may be less sought after because of the cover's condition. At the other end of the scale was the £330 paid for the latest date of use, 6 October, for item 27, at Phillips in 1989, the low price possibly reflecting doubt over authenticity, despite the certificate. See Fig 3.

It can be seen that the covers were all sent to addresses outside Barbados, with the exception of the local cover sent to the parish of St Thomas, item 13. I understand that this "unique" cover will be auctioned by Spink in their October sale, along with item 20, both covers not having been on the market for over 50 years.

Fig 3 Item 27
Barbados: 1852--55 (2d.) greyish slate bisected on part entire, tied by light "I" in barred oval cancel and showing "BARBADOES / OC 06 / 1854" double ring c.d.s., with treated stains and minor faults, the design just cut into at right, but scarce. R.P.S. Certificate (1936,). Photo. E E300/350

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Bisected Items on Piece

Dated Pieces

	Date	Description	Left/Right Bisect	Destination	Addressee	Certificate	Auction Ref
	AUG						
28	5	A 7 Postmark	L				Harmers N Y 10/70
29	9	Mourning piece with 6 cancel	R				Hurlock 6/58
30	10		L and R	Dominica		BPA 1932	Hurlock 6/58
31	11	Paid at Bdos CC	R			RPS 1933	R Lowe 6/51
32	27	With 2 cancel	R	B Guiana		RPS 1958	Hurlock 6/58
	SEPT						
33	5	A 7 Postmark	L			RPS 1974	Harmers NY 10/74
34	21	Royal Collection	L	No address shown			

Dated pieces command a premium over those on undated pieces; a few having attracted prices similar to those paid for some covers. On a particularly large piece, and with a Crowned Circle handstamp, see Fig 4, item 31 was priced in 1993 at £2000, and at a Pennymead sale in 1990 the mourning piece with the St Joseph parish cancel (item 29) sold for £925. Item 30 is believed to be the only example with two halves used together, see Fig 5.

Fig 4 Item 31

BARBADOS: ditto 2d. greyish slate, bisected vertically, right-hand half used on large dated ("AU 11 1854") piece and showing red circular " PAID AT BARBADOES " mark The bisect has large margins and is well tied but a little stained. Rare. With " Royal " certificate '

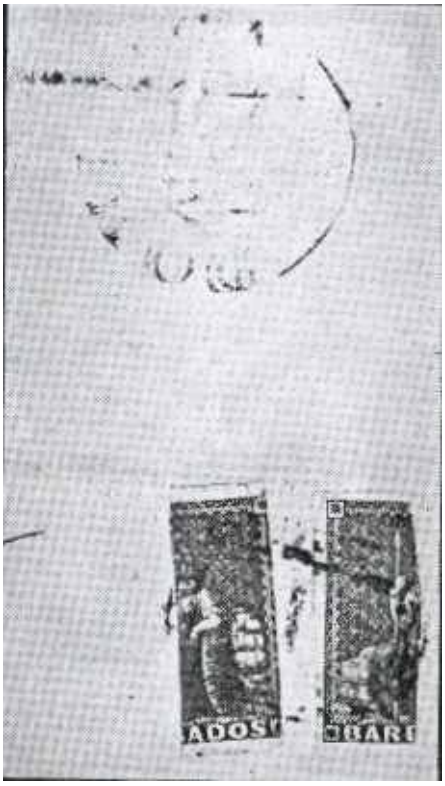

Fig 5 Item 30

2d. greyish slate, two bisected copies, the left and right halves used together on piece as 2d. rate, bearing Dominica date-stamp. Possibly unique. With B.P.A. certificate

A complete listing of undated pieces is more hazardous. Even with the assistance of examples illustrated in earlier auction catalogues (some examples were either not illustrated, or were included in general collections, rather than being sold separately) there remains some risk that an example sold in say 1950 may be the same bisected stamp appearing on the market years later. However, the angle of the cancellation, and respective margins, together with the difference between left and right side bisects, lessens the risk. Noticeable examples include two with triangular bisects (items 42 and 43) differing from the normal vertical bisects, although triangulars feature commonly on the perforated bisects.

I believe my listing overleaf avoids duplication but is almost certainly incomplete.

For those with deeper pockets, the Classic cover with the 2d bisected is a must in any serious collection, yet a good example on a piece (dated or undated) makes a worthy alternative. A surprise to me was the absence of any example, either on cover or piece, in the Tapling collection. There may be a small risk of forgery, of course, but the early type C1 cancels are helpful in this respect, and it can be seen that six of the undated items (35, 37, 39, 40, 44, and 46) received Certificates from the Royal in earlier times, despite the absence of any date on the piece. I understand their current policy is to refrain from issuing Certificates for bisects on small pieces, but given the provenance of some of those still uncertificated, if they were to reappear on the market after an absence of many years, could second thoughts yet prevail?

Undated Pieces

	Description	Left/Right Bisect	Destination	Addressee	Certificate	Auction Ref
35	Tied to small piece	R			RPS 1933	R Lowe 2/57
36	Tied to small piece	L			BPA 1930	Harmers 11/84
37	Tied to small piece with manuscript Post Office	L			RPS 1922	Hurlock 6/59
38	Tied to small piece Part paid at Bdos CC	R				R Lowe 6/77
39	Superb used small piece	R			RPS 1943	Hurlock 6/58
40	fine used small fragment	L			RPS 1925	Hackmey 4/86
41	Used small piece	L			BPA 1950	R Lowe 5/58
42	Used small piece	R-Triangular				R Lowe 1/48
43	Used piece newspaper with 1d cancel 7	L-Triangular				R Lowe 6/51
44	Used dated piece - date not specified	R			RPS 1939	R Lowe 5/61
45	Well tied to small piece	R				R Lowe 10/67
46	Fine tied to small piece	L			RPS 1943	Harmers 3/70
47	Fine , tied to small piece with Paid at Bdos CC	L				Harmers NY 10/68
48	Beautifully tied to piece	L				R Lowe 6/51
49	Tied to small piece	R				Harmers NY 4/82
50	Tied to small piece	L				H Rooke 6/35
51	Tied to small piece	R				Harmers 11/51
52	Tied to small piece	L				Harmers 11/28
53	Used small piece	R				Harmers 6/39
54	Tied to small piece, top touched	R				R Lowe 10/64
55	Very fine, tied to small piece	R			BPA	Harmers NY 10/69

Whilst I suspect that further additions can be made to my listings, even a total of say 30 undated pieces still represents a relatively " scarce " item, and it is a surprise to me that undated pieces do not command higher prices, notwithstanding the absence of a SG catalogue price. I do, however, have a vested interest, with items 37 and 41 in my own collection, the former having a Royal certificate, signed by Sir Edward Bacon, and clearly showing the manuscript ` Post Office ` addition. See Fig 6.

Fig 6 Item 37

2d. greyish slate, bisected vertically, the left-hand half very fine used on small piece and with "1" in bars pmk., and In additlon in MS " Post Office ". With " Royal " certificate.

In conclusion of this first article -- my second will highlight how less easily available are some of the perforated bisects on cover or piece -- I would thank particularly Spink, Harmers, and Bonhams for access to their auction catalogues, Charles Freeland for his assistance with his bisect photocopies, also James Grist, Frank Deakin, Fitz Roett and Stefan Heijtz, together with Messrs Beech and Vousden at the British Library, Derek Nathan at the BWISC Library, and the Royal Philatelic Society for access to their superb records of Britannias, including the bisects, with certificates from the Expert Committees.

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

THE A.J. WATKIN RESEARCH ARCHIVE. BY JAMES PODGER & KEVIN DARCY

Jack Watkin was an early pioneer of Cayman Island philately and a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. He died at the age of 53, on April 5th 1945. His collection was sold by Robson Lowe Ltd., on May 1st 1946, by order of the executrix. It remains, to date, the finest collection of Cayman Island material sold at auction.

His widow donated his forgery collection to the Royal Philatelic Society, for their use: He was often in correspondence with the 'Royal' on the subject of forgeries and was asked his expert opinion on Jamaica stamps used in the Cayman Islands and the provisional surcharges.

What is less known, is his research archive. This was also donated to the 'Royal', and contains in the region of two thousand pages of notes. These are indexed into different categories/subjects. Up to this point in time, very little use has been made of this information, which not only includes all references to Cayman stamps and postal history from the philatelic and general press, but also his private correspondence with fellow collectors and those living on the Cayman Islands. This covers the period from 1907 to his death.

The two boxes of research notes and some sundry material were located at the 'Royal', and it is with the kind permission of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, that the authors intend to produce a series of articles, reproducing parts of the archive. While some of the information we intend to reproduce will have already been published in magazines and journals, there is plenty that has not been published before. It is intended that these articles will give a fuller insight into Cayman philately and some of the people who were involved through the years.

I am currently adding new stock to my website.

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- A few proof items from Barbados, Bermuda and St Vincent.
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A.J. WATKIN RESEARCH ARCHIVE – ARTICLE NO.1

Letter From G.C. Gunter To The Colonial Secretary, Jamaica 15.05.34

A booklet on the Postal History, Postage Stamps and Post Marks of the Cayman Islands is being prepared by English Philatelic Specialists who are interested in the Philatelic History of those Islands.

The Jamaica Philatelic Society has been asked to assist in obtaining some information on the subject, which can only be had by reference to the old correspondence Files in the Colonial Office, Jamaica, or from the old Vestry minutes of the period.

I therefore have the honour to ask on behalf of this Society, that the privilege may be accorded to me to have access to your Files of correspondence with the Islands and if they exist, the old Vestry minutes of the periods mentioned in the particulars quoted and questions that have been put on the subject and which I enclose for your perusal. (These questions are not in Watkin's copy of this letter).

G.C. Gunter's Original Notes, 1934.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 15th May, 1934, and to inform you that the Officer Administering the Government approves of your having access to the files of this office relating to the postage and revenue stamps of the Cayman Islands and grants you permission to take notes therefrom on condition that the work is done after office hours and that none of the files are removed from this office.

Letter From G.C. Gunter To A.J. Watkin 12.11.34

On the 3rd February, 1908, writing to the Colonial Secretary, Jamaica, The Commissioner, Cayman Islands, (Mr. George Hirst, Commissioner) submitted a scheme which he believed would be of benefit to the Dependency – He referred to a bi-weekly Mail from George Town to Bodden Town which owing to expense he had to stop. The people did not patronise it for two reasons, (1) the postage was 1d. a letter which they considered exorbitant, (2) the patrons had not all the confidence they might have had in the Post Office at Bodden Town, and the bi-weekly mail gave no facilities for sending anything but a letter.

His suggestions were:-

1. To run a Weekly Mail from George Town to Bodden Town by Waggon and from Bodden Town to East End by messenger.
2. To reduce inland letter postage from 1d. to ½d. and on papers and Post Cards to ¼d.
3. To have no Post Offices, but to make the Waggoner and Messenger deliver all letters "en route" and sell stamps and collect letters "en route" and deliver materials, also.
4. The Waggon will be able to take and bring freight between George Town and Bodden Town.

He estimated the cost of a weekly service at £2. This system would establish regular communication between George Town and other districts and is worth the outlay of £24 per year. People will be able to send for their supplies and get them delivered on the route at a very cheap rate and with great convenience.

If His Excellency approved of the scheme, please order through the Crown Agents:-

a) 50 sheets of ½d. stamps from the same block we are using now.
b) 100 sheets of ¼d. stamps and
c) 1,000 ¼d. Post Cards

For B. and C. I would suggest an oval die, as then it will be possible to use the die for both stamp and Post Card thus:-

(Rough sketch copied from the Commissioner's letter)
G.C.G.

This illustration is taken from the original notes of G.C. Gunter, circa 1934. As one can see, it differs slightly to the one he drew on his letter to A.J. Watkin.

The Commissioner concluded his letter thus:-

"At all events everyone I have spoken to on the matter hails the scheme with delight".

On the 27th February, 1908, the Crown Agents were advised by the Colonial Secretary of the proposed scheme. An extract of the Commissioner's letter was sent them and they were asked to procure and forward the stamps and Post Cards. On the same day the Commissioner was advised that the Governor approved of his proposal and that the Crown Agents had been asked to supply the stamps.

On 30th July, 1908, the Commissioner, Cayman Islands, wrote to the Colonial Secretary, Jamaica, that although his original intention was to confine the ¼d. stamps and ¼d. Post Cards to local circulation, through a shortage of ½d. stamps he had been compelled to allow them to be used for foreign postage and now cannot withdraw them.

On the same date the Commissioner asked the Colonial Secretary to order 500 sheets of ¼d. stamps from the same plates and 1,000 ¼d. Post Cards as before, but the Post Cards to be at least twice the size of our "present issue". The request for larger Post Cards was approved by Governor Olivier who saw no reason why the Post Card should not be of normal size and ordered that the new supply should be of the same size as the Jamaica inland Post Card.

The Commissioner was advised of his approval on 12th August, 1908. On same date the Crown Agents were asked to supply 500 sheets of ¼d. stamps and 1,000 Post Cards of the same size as the Jamaica inland Post Cards.

Reference: The A.J. Watkin research material.
With kind permission of The Royal Philatelic Society, London.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

EXTRACTS FROM EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS

BY PETER FERNBANK

Continued from previous bulletin (193 – June 2002)
All information from Ewen's Weekly Stamp News has been taken from the records of the late Mrs Gravenor, now in the library of Allan Leverton. Alan has generously made these available to me. [author's comments in square brackets]

1st Printing - "WAR STAMP" small type

The overprint and surcharge "1½d." were made at separate operations. Entire sheets of 120 stamps were first overprinted with the "War Stamp" setting. By an even cut through the centre these were divided into panes, which were then printed with the surcharge "1½d." from a plate or setting of ten stereo casts giving sixty impressions.

The several type errors and varieties found in this particular setting, as originally used for the Jamaican issues, are as under-noted:-

Left-hand panes.

"WAR"	Smaller "W" Smaller "A"
"STAMP"	Slanting "S" Broad "S" Inverted "S"
	Smaller "A"
	Narrow "M" Smaller "M"

Right-hand Panes

"STAMP"	Smaller "P"
	Inverted "d" for "P"
	Double stop or colon
	Very small stop. Large stop.

The surcharge "1½d." appears to have been a horizontal setting of six pieces, from which mould was made for a stereo plate or ten separate casts of six. The figures are evenly set, but vary in the type of fraction "½". Several additional varieties occur, either through defects in the stereo mould or taking the casts therefrom.

Measurement of fraction bar and position.

Type i.	Bar 2½mm.	To centre of loop of "d"
Type ii.	Bar 2mm.	Almost to base of "d"
Type iii.	Bar 2mm.	To top of loop of "d"
Type iv.	Bar 1 or 1¼mm.	Ditto

The 4th stamp of 6th and 8th row, No. 34 and No. 46, on both left and right panes, are noticed in certain cases to be without bar to fraction of value.

Throughout, the 3rd stamp of 1st row, the letter to fraction appears as an "o" instead of "d".

The 4th stamp in the 3rd, 4th and in certain cases, 6th rows, appears with the very short 1mm. to 1¼mm. fraction bars. The 3rd of 6th row shows a smaller figure "2" in fraction, on the left-hand panes.

In some few cases certain rows of the stamps are found without spacing between the overprint and surcharge. Others show spacing varying 1mm. to 5mm., but the former are very much the scarcer.

A curious misformation in lettering is detected in the inscription of this particular printing. The 6th stamp of the 1st row in the right-hand panes the letter "C" appears as "G", the inscription reading "GAYMAN ISLANDS".

2nd Printing. "WAR STAMP" large type.

This, combined with the surcharge "1½d." was applied in one operation to panes of the latest issue of 2½d, in deep ultramarine. The whole of our supply of this was received in left - hand panes. Excepting for the 6th stamp of the 1st and 7th rows, with an extra heavy stop, there do not appear to be any particular varieties in the large type overprint, "WAR STAMP".

Though the surcharge "1½d." is similar to the 1st printing, apparently two new or different casts from the stereo mould were inserted in the chase or form, for the 9th and 10th rows. The 4th of 9th row, No. 52, is without bar in fraction, and the 2nd of 10th row, No. 56, shows the figure "1" with straight top.

A report is out that the errors, "No bar to fraction" and straight top "1" have been corrected, and do not appear on the right-hand panes, and as the black overprint on the deep ultramarine 2½d is not readily discernible under artificial light, further issue may appear on a different denomination.

March 1st, 1917. War Tax Postage. Overprint WAR STAMP *in two lines.*

1st Printing. Small letters 1¼mm. high. 1½d. on 2½d ultramarine; plate 5

Errors and varieties in Overprint.

a	Smaller "W"
b	Smaller "A" in WAR
c	Slanting "S"
d	Broad "S"
e	Smaller "S"
f	Inverted "S"
g	Smaller "A" in STAMP
h	Narrow "M"
I	Smaller "M"
j	Smaller "P"
k	Inverted "d" for "P"
l	Double stop or colon
m	Very small stop
n	Large stop

Types and errors in surcharge

i	Bar 2½mm.	To centre of loop of "d".
ii	Bar 2mm.	To base of "d".
iii	Bar 2mm.	To top of loop.
iv	Bar 1 or 1¼mm.	Ditto.
v	Error	No fraction bar.
vi	Error.	"o" instead of "d".
vii	Error	Smaller "2" in fraction

Anomalous Inscription "G" for "C" (in CAYMAN)

No. 6 in right-hand pane

These very interesting errors and varieties in the first two printings of this first issue will be considered of great importance to any specialised collection of Colonial War Issues, and will be much sought after. The supply available being so limited, there is no doubt in a little while the complete set or particular items will be difficult to secure. Excepting for a few panes held intact, we are extracting the items, as most desirable, in blocks or pairs, to include in Distribution No. 689 of our New Issue Service, to members who appreciate the relative value and importance of special varieties, and who regularly accept our sendings of such.

916 K 917 (21 Apr 1917) - War Tax Postage

Since printing the detail for article in last week's edition of E.S.W.N. an additional variety in the surcharge has been noted by our New Issue Service. In the 1st printing, small type war stamp, the 1st of 5th row, No. 25 in the panes shows a much smaller "d" in the surcharge "1½d." It appears even smaller on the left than on the right-hand panes. This is of great interest as it is the 1st stamp in the row in which types I, II, III and IV, of measurement of fraction bar with the varied positions of the "d", are found in an undivided strip of four.

Additional. Variety in Surcharge

1½d on 2½d ultramarine. 1st Printing. Smaller "d" in fraction. Type I surcharge.

Mekeel's Weekly of March 31st, just to hand, reports that the stock of the surcharge 1½d on 2½d was sold out in Grand Cayman on close of first day of sale, and that a further issue was to be made. This may mean the overprint and surcharge 1½d have had to be supplied to some other value on the stock of the 2½d being insufficient.

There has been an unprecedented rush on the supply we received a few days since, and to such an extent that, for the small type overprint, we had to on Monday midday cancel the first quotation made in E.W.S.N., No. 916, for quantity orders, and expected only demands for singles or blocks, or special requirements of our regular clients. We were in fact posting out on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday numerous orders which were invoiced at a less rate than a small supply of a few hundred offered us on the 17th inst., and which we only too glad to purchase to augment our stock. A fair proportion of the issue having been secured by American dealers, there is little chance of more being received on this side, and prices will quickly run much higher than quotations current in London. In certain instances where quotations are lower, on applying to purchase, it is found no stock is held, and the individuals are wanting to buy.

917 L 921 (19 May 1917) - War Tax Postage

With renewal supplies for general stock purposes sent against orders mailed out last January, we received a letter under date April 10th, from Grand Cayman advising that the stocks of 2½d and 1½d on 2½d War Stamp are exhausted. With interest we look forward as to what may be forthcoming later against outstanding requisitions

921 M 922 (26 May 1917) - War Tax Postage

The keen interest and close study shown amongst the members of our New Issue Service, who secured the previously listed overprint errors and varieties of the two printings, supplied in selected pieces, has brought to light several additional varieties in the surcharge.

1st Print. - 1½d on 2½d war stamp

E.R.T.Upton, Esq., kindly writes:- *"Amongst the stamps received from you is a single copy of the 1st print, which I notice has several peculiarities. The chief one is unrecorded by you, and it is this: The large figure "1" of surcharge has the top quite different to any other one of the number received in my consignment. The serif is sharp with fine point, whereas others have thick serif blunted at point. In fraction the small "1" is broken, the bar 2mm. measurement, and the "d" has no top to it. I like its varieties. These do not show in the normal one in pairs with the broad "S" variety. The figure "1" referred to is a distinct type, different from all others received."*

2nd Print - 1½d on 2½d war stamp.

The error "no bar" to fraction was noted as occurring in the 4th stamp of 9th row., left-hand pane. W. van Open, Esq., points out that in the double row with plate number, he secured, the 5th stamp has a bar only ½mm. in measurement, and the 3rd stamp has bar and "d" joined.

To Be Continued in Next Bulletin

JAMAICA

RIO BUENO – RATE ON 1830 COVER *BY BOB SWARBRICK*

May I suggest a few alternatives to the explanation offered by Anthony Wilkinson? (Page 24 Bulletin 193, June 2002) Although the letter is marked 'single', and prepaid accordingly, it was found, on arrival in Kingston to be a 'double', and thus re-rated at the increased rate of 2/6. As all mail had to be prepaid, it was returned to the writer for the collection of the unpaid portion of the postage. Although the letter may well have been posted at Duncans, it was returned to Rio Bueno. The difference in Local currency would not be a reason for the difference, as the rate was 1/- sterling equalled 1/3 local.

The final rate charged 2/5 was the British internal postage from landing to final address, (double of 1s/2d plus ½d Scottish 'Wheel Tax') collected on delivery.

May I suggest that we must be careful not to make supposition fit the facts!

OFFERS FROM STOCK

VISIT – PHILATEX 31 OCT – 2 NOV

BAHAMAS	Q.V. 1/-: SG39 f/u - £20 SG39a f/u block of 4 -	£20
	KGVI 1939 ½d - £1 SPECIMEN CW sp1/17	£300
	1942 Landfall mint blocks of 4	£110
BERMUDA	For Reference – Colour Illustrations	
	KGV Printings 1917-1937 2/- - £1	£12
	KGVI 12/6 The 'Prague Cover' CW 15BB	£12
	2/- CW 11b a mint pair with Scroll Flaw & Plate No.	£185
	1950/51 Newspaper Wrapper ¾d on ¼d Provisional – unused	£18
	Handbooks – Red Book – Dick Giesser	£20
	Bermuda / Leewards / Nyasaland - Dick Giesser, Yendall	£65
	Both books detail KGVI Key Plate issues in detail	
GRENADA	KGVI 10/- A range – List Available CW22 – 25c	
	KGVI 10/- Perf 12 – the Forgery – A Colour Illustration	£5
	1952 Postage Due 4c SG D16a	£65
	1952 Postage Due 4c SG D16b	£45
ST. LUCIA	1929 Lindbergh – Special c.d.s. various values.	
	See CW five reigns Page 421, not listed in other catalogues	
TRINIDAD	1953 Postage Due 2c Sheet of 60 CW PD15b "St Edwards Crown"	£30
	1953 Postage Due 2c Sheet of 60 CW PD15a Crown Omitted	£80
TURKS & CAICOS	1910-1922	
	¼d Cactus – A Study 5 sheets CW23 etc. CWG33	£135
	(we list shades not in other catalogues)	
	1d CWG12 WAR TAX – a complete sheet of 120 (SG140)	£20
Other Turks	3d CWG16 WAR TAX – a complete sheet of 60 (SG145)	£200
Available	3d CWG24D WAR TAX – a complete sheet of 60 (SG153y)	£475

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LEEWARD ISLANDS

REGISTRATION MARKINGS AND LABELS (PART 2)

BY MICHAEL OLIVER

Continued from June bulletin, which included introductory text.

DOMINICA

No	Post Office	Type	Size mm	EKD	LKD	Notes
D1R	GPO	1	21 x 26	12 Mar 83	4 Oct 28	
D2R	GPO	1	21 x 25	23	27	Sent from London Apr 01
D3R	GPO	1	22 x 27	9 Sep 02	33	
D4R	GPO	1	22 x 28	1 Jun 39	31 Dec 39	
D5R	GPO	2	9 x 12		31 Dec 39	
D6R	GPO	2	12 x 17			
D7R	GPO?	6	36½ x 8	24 Mar 83		UK label?
D8R	GPO?	7	43 x 9	26		USA mark?
D9R	GPO?	3b	43 x 12½	29		Posted G.Bay, m/script no.
D10R	GPO?	8	41 x 3½	30 Dec 29		Also on Barbuda cover
Dl1R	DOMINICA	5	31 x 10	9 May 02	Jul 11	In Red & Black
D12R	DOMINICA	4	40 x 16	15	28	
D13R	DOMINICA	4	41 x 16	12 Sep 24	Jul 27	Larger No & name
D14R	DOMINICA (G.P.O.)	4	40 x 15½	29		GPO at bottom
D15R	G.P.O. DOMINICA	4	37 x 15	Mar 31		GPO at top
D16R	G.P.O. DOMINICA	4	38 x 15	38	31 Dec 39	One line
D17R	DOMINICA, BR.W.I.	4	38 x 15½		Nov 44	One line – issued after 1939?
D18R	(Portsmouth)	4	40 x 15½	30	33	Bottom

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PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

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Leeward Islands: A Postal History Anthology
(Pub-1997) 74p. £13

Ludington. Postal History of Blockade Running Through Bermuda, 1861 -1865
(Pub 1996) 51 p. £13

Forand & Freeland, Bermuda Mails to 1865
(Pub-1995) 124p. £13

Devaux, Early Air Mails of Saint Lucia
(Pub-1993) 26p. £6.50

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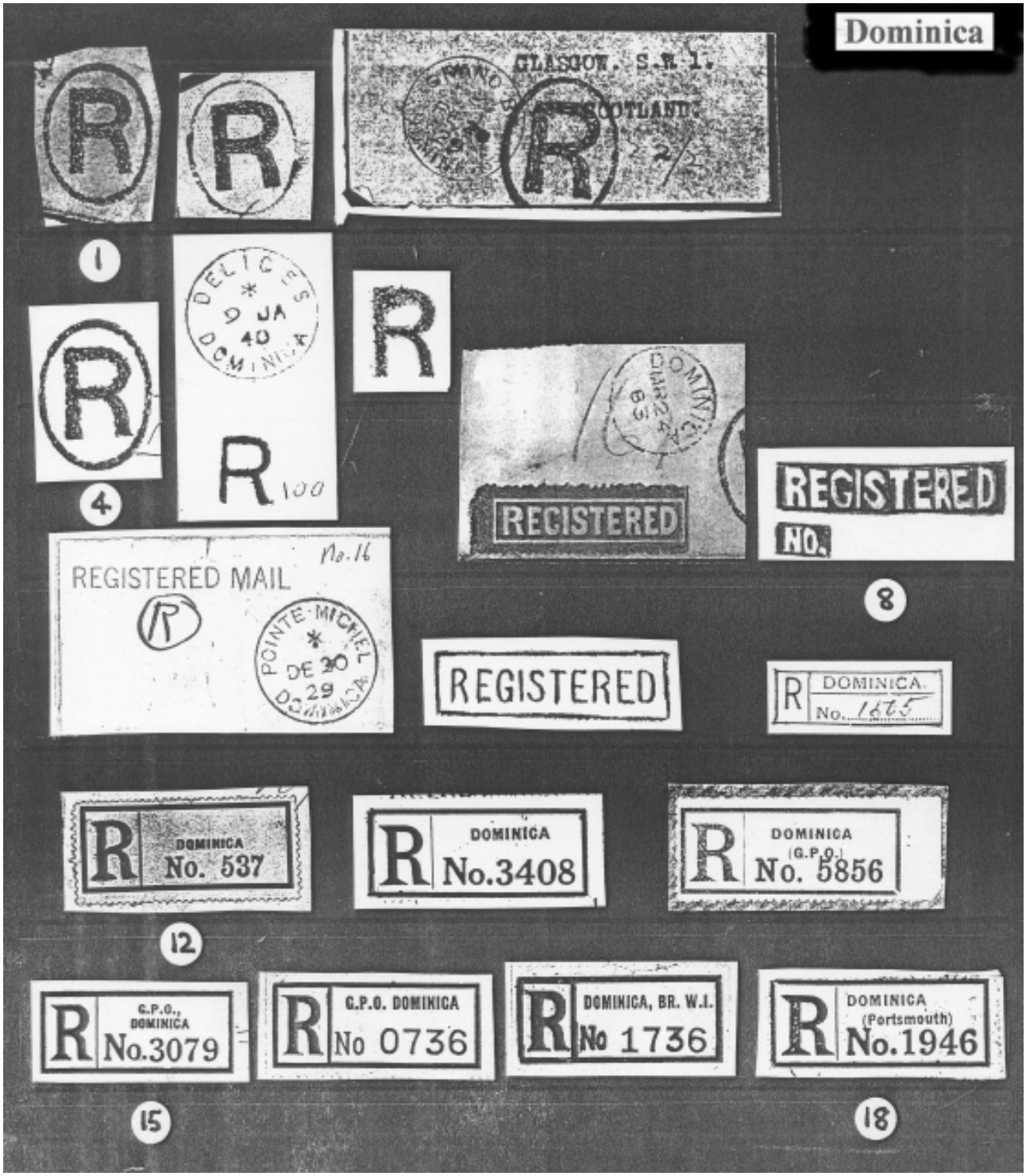

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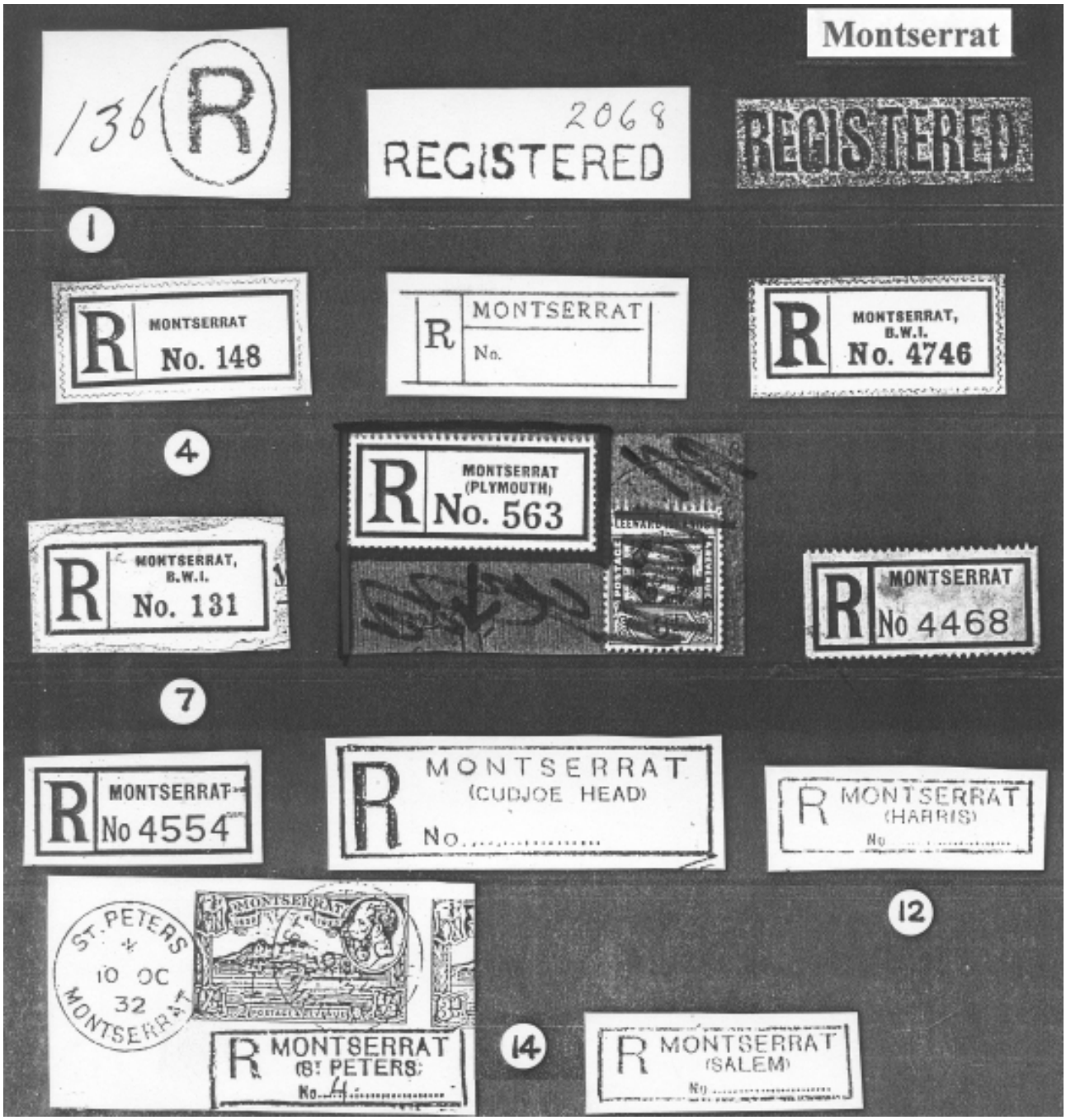
MONTSERRAT

No	Post Office	Type	Size mm	EKD	LKD	Notes
M1R	GPO	1	20 x 25		5 Feb 53	
M2R	GPO	3	49 x 6	23 Mar 04	16 Feb 29	
M3R	GPO?	3	49 x 11	14		
M4R	MONTSERRAT	4	40 x 15½	30 Nov 08	11 Sep 12	
M5R	MONTSERRAT	6	48 x 16	17 Apr 09	21	
M6R	MONTSERRAT, B.W.I.	4	40 x 15½		14	BWI at bottom – thick R
M7R	MONTSERRAT, B.W.I.	4	40 x 15½	17	19	BWI at bottom – normal R
M8R	(PLYMOUTH)	4	40 x 15½	19	31	Bottom
M9R	MONTSERRAT	4	38½ x 15½	7 Jun 35	26 Aug 48	Short serifs
M10R	MONTSERRAT	4	38½ x 15½	37	30 Jun 56	Long serifs
Ml1R	(CUDJOE HEAD)	5	65 x 19	7 Oct 32		Bottom – sent Feb 27
M12R	(HARRIS)	5	45 x 13	31	43	Bottom – sent Nov 26
M13R	(ST.PETERS)	5	45 x 13	10 Oct 32		Bottom – sent Nov 26
M14R	(SALEM)	5	45 x 13	26 Mar 35	25 Nov 38	Bottom – sent Nov 26



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St. KITTS

No	Post Office	Type	Size mm	EKD	LKD	Notes
S1R	GPO	1	21 x 26	99		
S2R	GPO	1	17 x 23	25	Apr 28	
S3R	GPO	1	21 x 25	26		
S4R	Sandy Point?	1	21 x 27	28		
S5R	GPO	3b	44 x 14	24		
S6R	GPO	3b	48 x 14	9 Sep 26		
S7R	GPO	3	35 x 5½	25		
S8R	GPO	3	43 x 5	30 Oct 45		
S9R	GPO	3	45 x 9	23 Mar 48		
S10R	GPO?	3	29 x 3	Sep 38		
Sl1R	St. Kitts, W.I.	6	37 x 17	Nov 08		Private handstamp?
S12R	ST. KITTS, W.I.	4	42 x 15	8 May 11		
S13R	ST. KITTS W.I.	4	40 x 15½			
S14R	ST. KITTS	4	38½ x 15	Feb 39	23 Mar 48	
S15R	ST. KITTS	4	38 x 15	55	30 Jun 56	
S16R	?	5	44 x 17	30 Oct 45	Nov 46	Name illegible
S17R	ST. KITTS	4	38 x 15			N6R o/ptd – 1956?
S18R	DIEPPE BAY	4	39 x 15½	15 Feb 55	30 Jun 56	Top
S19R	SANDY POINT	4	39 x 15½		30 Jun 56	Top

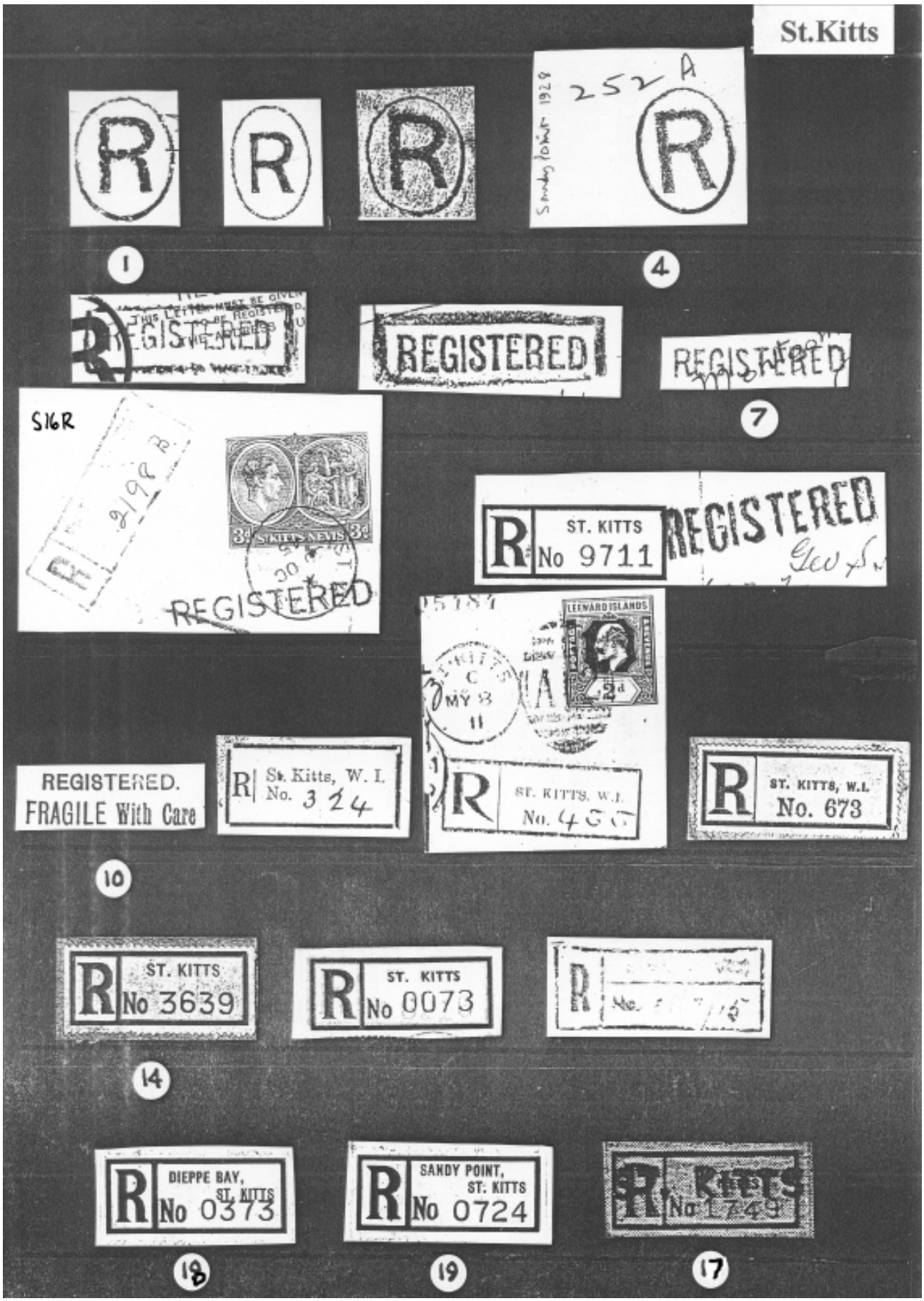
NEVIS

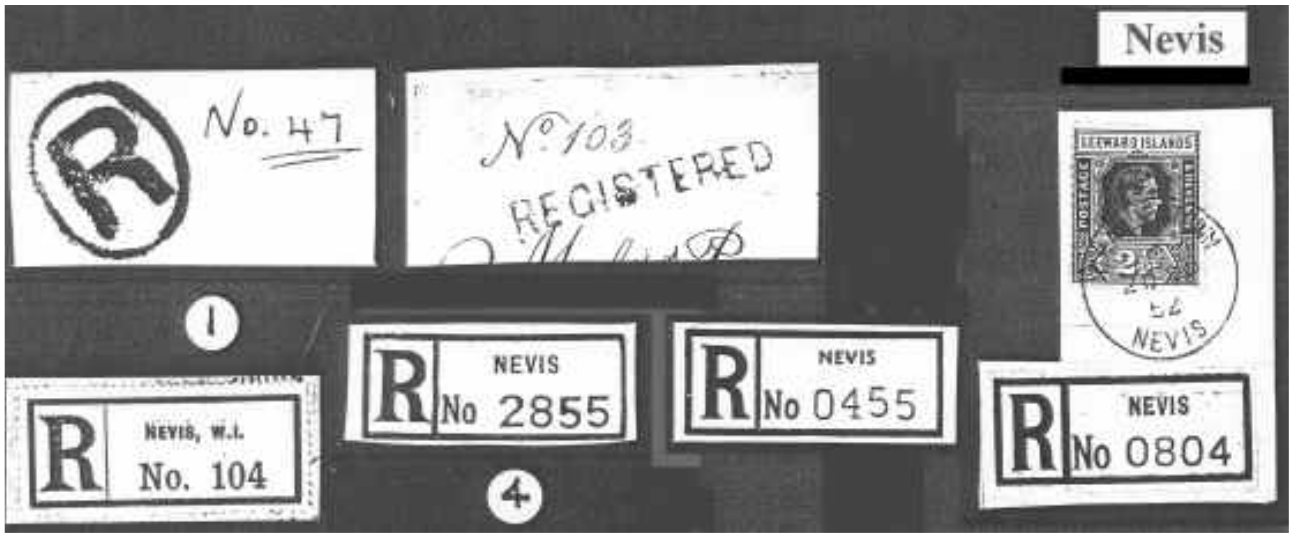
No	Post Office	Type	Size mm	EKD	LKD	Notes
N1R	GPO *	1	21 x 26	07	26	
N2R	GPO	3	40 x 4½	80		
N3R	NEVIS, W.I.	4	40 x 15	12 May 11		
N4R	NEVIS	4	39 x 15	45	47	Large name – long serifs
N5R	NEVIS	4	38½ x 15½	20 sep 52		Large name – long serifs
N6R	NEVIS	4	38 x 15	55	30 Jun 56	Small name

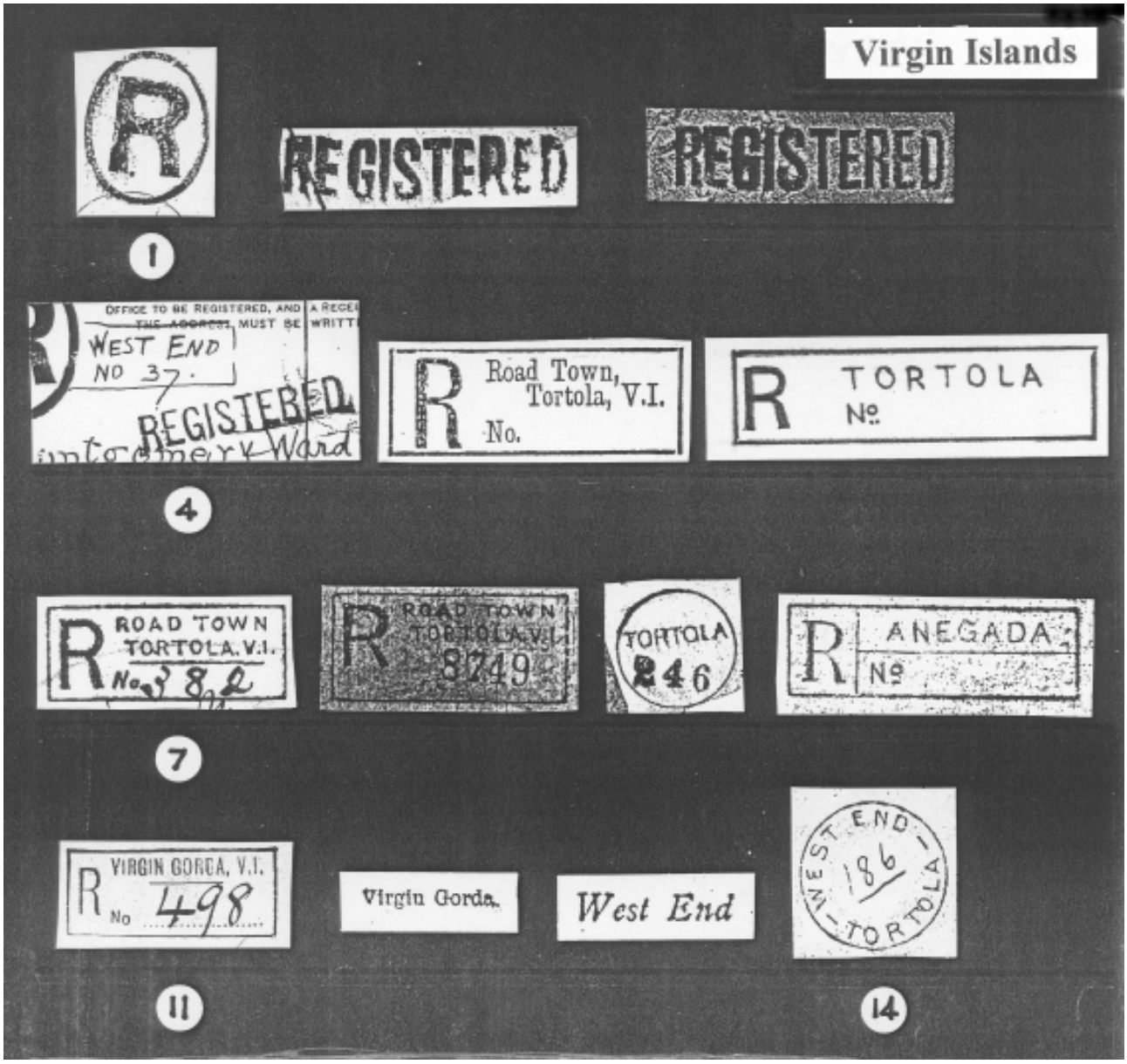
* From 1882 Charleston was a branch office of St. Kitts but Nevis retained its own postmarks and labels.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

No	Post Office	Type	Size mm	EKD	LKD	Notes
V1R	GPO	1	22 x 26	90	18 oct 25	
V2R	GPO	3	49 x 10	14		
V3R	GPO	3	46 x 10	17		
V4R	GPO	3	36 x 6	23?		
V5R	Road Town,	5	50 x 18	05	08	Tortola, VI below
V6R	TORTOLA	5	62 x 15	05		
V7R	ROAD TOWN	5	41½ x 16	09	30 Jun 56	TORTOLA, V.I. below
V8R	ROAD TOWN	5	41 x 18	37		TORTOLA, V.I. below
V9R	TORTOLA	6		20 Feb 14		V6 with indices removed
V10R	ANEGADA	5	50 x 15			Issued c1937 – not known used
Vl1R	VIRGIN GORDA, V.I.	5	36 x 14½	24 May 12	1 Nov 30	
V12R	Virgin Gorda	7	23 x 2½	09		
V13R	West End	7	16 x 4½	Sep 08		
V14R	WEST END	6		Feb 36	38	V33 with indices removed


St.Kitts
1
4
REGISTERED
REGISTERED
REGISTERED
7
S16R
REGISTERED
ST. KITTS
No 9711
REGISTERED
LEEWARD ISLANDS
REGISTERED.
FRAGILE With Care
St. Kitts, W. I.
No. 324
ST. KITTS, W.I.
No. 673
10
ST. KITTS
No 3639
ST. KITTS
No 0073
14
DIEPPE BAY,
ST. KITTS
No 0373
SANDY POINT,
ST. KITTS
No 0724
Kitts
No 1749
18
19
17


Nevis
No. 47
No 103
REGISTERED
1
NEVIS, W.I.
No. 104
NEVIS
No 2855
NEVIS
No 0455
4
LEEWARD ISLANDS
POSTAGE
NEVIS
NEVIS
No 0804


Virgin Islands
REGISTERED
REGISTERED
1
OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND
MUST BE
WEST END
NO 37.
REGISTERED
Montgomery Ward
4
Road Town,
Tortola, V.I.
No.
TORTOLA
No.
ROAD TOWN
TORTOLA, V.I.
No. 382
7
ROAD TOWN
TORTOLA, V.I.
8749
TORTOLA
246
ANEGADA
No
VIRGIN GORDA, V.I.
No 498
Virgin Gorda.
West End
WEST END
186
TORTOLA
11
14

TOBAGO

SG33 ½ D ON 4D

BY NIGEL CHANDLER

SG 33 ½d on 4d has been to date recorded on three covers with genuine postal use. I submit a further two items making a total of five.

The first is part of a newspaper wrapper, which should have been sent at 1d and as a consequence of being underpaid attracted 1d postage due.

This item was discovered in an all world dealers stock

The second is an item of registered mail with five of SG 33 & one SG 33a.
The rate is correct, i.e. 2d registration and 1d postage, although shortened, when opened. The reverse bears a Trinidad Registered Receipt cancel. Having not seen the other three covers I suggest that this is at present the only recorded item bearing SG 33a postally used.

This item came from Germany

AUCTION UPDATE **BY CHARLES FREELAND**

Victoria Stamp Company 21 June: By good chance I was on the right side of the Atlantic and was able to attend one of Phoebe MacGillivary's auctions for the first time. If you like Italian cuisine, this is the place to go. Phoebe provided a marvellous complimentary lunch as well as liquid refreshments that just kept the right side of the law (US auctioneers are not permitted to inebriate their customers). Phoebe's new offices just across the road from Ridgewood train station are comfortable and she has assembled a friendly and professional team, with the very fast but clear Norman Scrivener calling the shots. There were not a lot of room bidders; one was the agent Melissa Purser handling about 35 clients including those of Frank Mandel. Others included David Wilson for the Bahamas section and David Pitts, who demonstrated his heavyweight capacities as well as an unexpected ability to imitate animal noises when called on by the urbane Mr Scrivener (though the Falkland Islands penguin sounded more like a duck to me)

My report in the June bulletin had forecast this sale as the highlight of the summer auction calendar and we were not disappointed. The 1800 lots must have contained something to interest almost every colonial collector. There were rare gems scattered throughout the catalogue. The high point of the sale came with the Nevis and St Kitts preadhesives. David Pitts had flown up from Baton Rouge determined to buy all the best items. He hoovered up all the Nevis section, but this contained only one rarity, the oval ship letter that fetched a respectable $1,800 (all prices plus 15%). But when the St Kitts arrived there was very strong competition from a book bidder, with the result that the section fetched about $60,000, three times the printed estimates. In nearly all cases the rare strikes went for between $3,000 and $4,000, with the St Kitts Paid marking in both red and black the most expensive at $5,000. Phoebe looked miserable as her heroic book bidder was virtually wiped out, but not for long. Another highlight was the small but select section of St Vincent revenues, which were competed for by our leading fiscal enthusiast bidding on the phone and a book bidder. Here the prices were quite expensive but not outrageous, the highest being the double overprint one inverted at $1,200 and the pretty strip of three mint 5/-s at $1,700. The Fredrick Bell collection of modern Commonwealth contained numerous rarities, notably in the GVI era. Bahamas was especially enticing with all the short T flaws on the 2d, including a spectacular positional piece of the 2d grey. A surprise to me was the strength of Jamaica section, where all lots seemed to sell at good prices.

Throughout the sale, indeed, there were interesting items for the BWI specialist. A comprehensive collection of the MSCA dandy roll errors contained all the regular varieties and one that I have only recorded as a single used copy, the Br Guiana 1934 3 cents definitive with missing crown. There were two large mint blocks containing this rarity, one with four accompanying sheets showing the breakdown in the dandy roll or the replacement crown. And some small mixed lots of BWI censors were also snapped up by discerning bidders. Finally, for collectors of the earlies there were good sections of Br Guiana, St Lucia and St Vincent. Phoebe seems to have buyers for any taste.

Does lightning strike twice? Occasionally it does. GVI collectors have for some years been aware of a rare inverted watermark variety on the St Vincent 1947 10/-. A couple of used examples have been spotted by the cognoscenti over the past 20 years. On 19 June, Stanley Gibbons in Sydney offered a lovely mint example which fetched a cool A$8,000 - about £3,500 in real money after premia. (This is to my recollection the highest price yet paid for any single BWI watermark variety, including sideways watermarks, albeit small beer when set alongside £50 million for a Rubens). By strange coincidence, on 24 July Spink offered a third used example of the same stamp, but the market evidently feels sated as it opened at £1,000 and was unsold.

Coming up on 11-12 September Bonhams are breaking a nice collection of Bermuda GVI keyplate pieces, including three 'white island' flaws, the two blank scrolls on the 1943 2/- and £1 and many No. 60 scroll flaws. On 16 October there is an intriguing old-time collection at Spink, with particular strength in the Barbados Britannias. On offer will be two 1854 2d bisect covers, one the only local usage recorded, and a small but exceptionally choice range of Cayman Island provisionals on cover - don't waste time on these unless you are seriously rich. Then we can look forward to the Grosvenor sale on 27 November, the highlight for BWI enthusiasts being the John Sussex collection of de le Rue keyplates of the QV and Edwardian reign. I saw this collection at Stampex a year or so back and it includes some high quality issued stamps as well as the obligatory archive material.

Amendments to Members Details

Name	Initial	Address	Phone / Fax / email	Interests
New Members:				
Erskine	LJ	9 Aldercombe Road, Coombe Dingle Bristol BS9 2 QJ	(0117) 9683402 (Eve) (0117) 3770199 (Day)	BAR, STV, Bequia, Grenadines of STV
Harvey	M	PO Box 50 Hazlemere Surrey GU27 1 WX	01428 642702 mark@surreystamps.com	DA
Jordan	JM	Avenue Cottage Avenue Road Maidenhead Berks SL6 UG	01628 770212 johnmjordan@msn.com	ANT: 1862-1970 BWI G6 post war
Dixon	A	8561 Doverbrook Drive West Palm Beach Florida 3341-6371 USA		
Revision of Details:				
Boylan	RJ	PO Box 171 Christmas Island Indian Ocean WA 6798	russellb@cirp.com.cx	STV (AD, CA, KP, WT, CO, ES, PH, PR, MU, SP, US) 1882-1932 De La Rue period
Cordes	C	PO Box 41953 Craighall 2024 SOUTH AFRICA	27 11 630 7625 (W) 27 11 838 3547 (F) chrisc@nedcor.co.za	BRG (Pictorial issues), NEV
Ford	PC	Box 665, CTRA Caba La Nao 71-6 03730 Javea Alicante, SPAIN	0034 966 472 158 pccford@hotmail.com	BRG (up to 1963), TOB, Local WI overprints, Waterlow issues of Wi
Heijtz	S	Box 26048 S-100-41 Stockholm SWEDEN	+46 - 8108362 +46 - 8108361 (F) stefan.heijtz@home.se	*BAR PH up to 1881, Puerto Rico PH (British PO + In general)
Seifert	F F	FRPSL 500 Paisano St NE Apt 242 Albuquerque New Mexico 87123-1476 USA	W5FS@YAHOO.COM	BRG (CA, PH)
Wilkinson	P	PO Box 1065 CHIPPENHAM Wilts SN15 1 WB	01249 464410 01249 464410 (F)	BER
Deceased:				
Baldwin	PL	30 Dulwich Mead Half Moon Lane London SE24 9HS		

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Copies of the catalogue for our forthcoming sale are also available from:

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